

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05
PM-05 EB-08 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-09 COME-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /088 W
-----017886 041447Z /53

R 031715Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4054
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
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AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS EWWT MARR MASS PARM PBOR PLOS XY TO
SUBJ: ABILITY OF WEST AFRICAN COASTAL STATES TO
PATROL OFFSHORE FISHERIES

REF: STATE 90967

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1. FISHING BY TOGOLESE PLAYS LITTLE ROLE IN THE
MONETIZED TOGOLESE ECONOMY. A GOT-OWNED TWO BOAT FLEET
FISHES OUT OF THE PORT OF LOME AND SEVERAL VILLAGES ALONG
THE COAST DO SUBSISTENCE FISHING WITH MOTORIZED DUGOUTS
WHICH LAY NETS THAT ARE PULLED IN BY THE VILLAGERS ON THE
SHORE. ALL THE CATCH IS LOCALLY CONSUMED.

2. FISH, HOWEVER, IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF PROTEIN IN THE TOGOLESE DIET. IN 1976, TOGO IMPORTED 12,862.3 TONS OF FISH VALUED AT 719,845,265 CFA FRANCS. A TOGOLESE PRIVATE COMPANY, SOCIETE TOGOLAISE DES MAREYEURS, ABBRIVEIATED SOTOMAREY, CURRENTLY CONTROLS 80 PERCENT OF THE TOGOLESE FISH MARKET. SOTOMAREY'S MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS ARE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. THE NATIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE, NOMINALLY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IS THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH REGULATES FISHING. THE NATIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE IS AN INDEPENDENT POLICYMAKING AGENCY WITH A MONOPOLY CONTROL OF FISHING IN TOGOLESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE NATIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE CHARTER IS TO PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF MORE EFFICIENT PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, TO NEGOTIATE JOINT VENTURES WITH FOREIGN FISHING CONCERNS, AND TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENTS. THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITHIN THE NATIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE IS THE FISHERIES SERVICE. POACHING BY UNAUTHORIZED VESSELS IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR FOR TOGO. TO THE BEST OF THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, TOGO HAS NEVER SEIZED A VESSEL FOR POACHING OR TRESPASSING IN NATIOANL WATERS. SUCH A SEIZURE WOULD IN THEORY LEAD TO A BAN ON FURTHER FISHING BY THAT VESSEL.

4. TOGO PERMITS FOREIGN FISHING. THE SOVIET UNION IS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCIPAL NATION FISHING WITH HOST GOVERNMENT CONSENT AND SUPPLIES SOTOMAREY. FROZEN AND CANNED FISH PRODUCED BY THE RUSSIAN FLEET HAVE BECOME A MAJOR SOURCE OF PROTEIN IN THE INLAND TOGOLESE DIET. AN INTERRUPTION OF THE FLOW OF FISH INLAND WOULD HAVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS FOR TOGO. THE GOT SIGNED A BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT WITH LIBYA ON DECEMBER 7, 1977 CREATING THE "SOCIETE ARABE LYBIENNE TOGOLAISE DE PECHE." THE FIRST FISHING VESSEL OF THIS GROUP ARRIVED IN TOGO IN APRIL. THERE ARE ALSO A HALF DOZEN GHANAIAAN BOATS FISHING OFF TOGO.

4. TO DATE, THE TOGOLESE HAVE PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO FISHERIES QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF FOREIGN FISHING. HOWEVER, COASTAL FISHING IS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT IS BEING EXAMINED BY ECOWAS AS AN AREA FOR POTENTIAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. IN THE LAST TWO YEARS TOGO HAS ESTABLISHED A TWO-BOAT NAVY, A ONE SHIP MERCHANT MARINE FLEET, AND DECLARED A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. IT IS THEREFORE LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT THE QUESTION OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT WILL SHORTLY CTME UNDER REVIEW. THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN OFFSHORE FISHING INDUSTRY EXISTS. PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TERRITORIAL WATERS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LOME01431
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0998
Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780598/aaaadfqb.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e3923a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 90967
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2806624
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABILITY OF WEST AFRICAN COASTAL STATES TO PATROL OFFSHORE FISHERIES
TAGS: EFIS, EWWT, MARR, MASS, PARM, PBOR, PLOS, XY, TO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e3923a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014